

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-11 and 13-57 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claim 57 has been added. Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, 22, 26, 36 45 and 55 are independent.

The claims have been amended to clarify the invention and to correct informalities according to U.S. practice. These modifications are fully supported by the original disclosure, e.g., see paragraphs [50]-[52], [49], [59]-[60] of the specification, steps S21, S23 and S35 in Figs. 4A and 4B.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-11, and 13-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,523). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claim 1 and similarly recited independent claims 6, 10, 15, 19, 22, 26, 36 45 and 55, the Examiner alleges that Kikuchi et al. discloses each and every feature recited therein. For instance, the Examiner equates Kikuchi et al.'s "V_FWD_Exist 1" and "V_FWD_Exist 2" as shown in Fig. 35B of Kikuchi et al. to Applicants' "information indicating whether or not the entry point map associated with the entry point exists" as recited. However, Kikuchi et al.'s "V_FWD_Exist 1" and "V_FWD_Exist 2" are flags indicating whether or not the video data exists in the video object unit (VOBU); see, e.g., col. 21, lines 12-17 of Kikuchi et al. Such video data flag information is clearly different from the information indicating whether

or not the entry point map exists, which is required by each of the independent claims. This feature is clearly absent from Kikuchi et al.

Furthermore, Kikuchi et al.'s video data flags (V_FWD_Exist 1 and V_FWD_Exist 2) are included as part of the DSI data as shown in Fig. 25 of Kikuchi et al., which is in a digital data stream, whereas Applicants' information indicating whether or not the entry point map exists is included in the management information, as recited.

Moreover, regarding independent claim 26 and others, the Examiner alleges the time map in Fig. 19 of Kikuchi et al. reads on the map information including "access time information" as recited. However, Fig. 19 of Kikuchi et al. shows a program chain map and does not provide such access time information, as required by the claims.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, 22, 26, 36 45 and 55 and their dependent claims (due to the dependency) are patentable over the applied reference, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

New Claim

Claim 57 further defines the invention as recited in independent claim 1, and is thus patentable due to the dependency. In the alternative, claim 57 recites other patentably distinguishing features according to the embodied invention. For instance, in Applicants' embodied invention, as shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, a SOBI includes an entry point map and a stream object unit grouping type indication flag. The entry point map exists when the stream

object unit grouping type indication flag is set to 1, because only when this flag is set to 1, the SOBU is formed based on the random access flag (which means an entry point). If the stream object unit grouping type indication flag is set to 0, then the SOBU is formed based on a time period, which means the map made by this SOBU is not related to the entry point. Thus, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the stream object unit grouping type indication flag indicates whether the entry point map associated with the entry point exists or not.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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